

legislation is just one piece of the overall strategy. With anti-choice leaders now controlling both the House and Senate, banning abortion is once again becoming a top legislative priority.

Why when there are so many other pressing issues in this Nation, would Congressional leaders choose to introduce legislation that has already been held unconstitutional? In 2000, the Supreme Court found Nebraska's so-called "partial-birth" abortion ban unconstitutional. The Court found that the law was an unconstitutional burden on a woman's right to choose. The Nebraska law banned safe abortion procedures and lacked the constitutionally required exception to protect a woman's health. These same issues are present in the bill now before Congress.

I urge Congress to reject this ban on partial-birth abortion. I support a woman's right to make choices on her own behalf. The government should stay out of important health decisions, and leave those important health decisions to the woman, her family and her doctor.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO
RIVER CATS FOR WINNING THE
2003 PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the 2003 Sacramento River Cats, the deserving winners of the 2003 Pacific Coast League Championship. The 2003 River Cats triumphantly completed the season by winning all its postseason games, including a three-game sweep of the Nashville Sounds. The 2003 River Cats demonstrated remarkable courage,

determination, and teamwork that have made them a great source of civic pride and a local attraction. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the remarkable 2003 Sacramento River Cats.

Throughout the course of the season, the Sacramento River Cats never left any doubt that they were top of the class of the Pacific Coast League. The River Cats displayed tremendous consistency and excellence as they finished with a league best record of 92 wins and 52 losses, a remarkable 18 games better than the closest competitor. The River Cats truly dominated the competition as 51 of the River Cats' victories were decided by more than 3 runs. Backed by a spirited and loyal fan base, the River Cats won a league-leading 50 games at home during the regular season. The River Cats also won the franchise's third division championship since relocating to Sacramento in 2000. By combining a high-octane offense; a tenacious pitching staff, and a steady defense, this year's River Cats posted the best overall record and road record in franchise history. It is clear that the 2003 Sacramento River Cats are one of the most dominant teams in the illustrious 100-year history of the Pacific Coast League.

The 2003 Sacramento River Cats are comprised of an outstanding blend of seasoned veterans with major league experience and exciting young players who are destined to be the superstars of tomorrow. This River Cats team is spearheaded by the all around excellence of Pacific Coast League's Rookie of the Year Bobby Crosby, Pitcher of the Year Justin Duchscherer and Most Valuable Player Graham Koonce. The 2003 River Cats became the first team to claim the three major individual awards in the history of the Pacific Coast League. This dazzling array of players, combined with a selfless commitment to team play, are major reasons why the River Cats

enjoyed such unparalleled success during the 2003 season.

In addition to a wonderful roster, the 2003 River Cats also benefited greatly from the tutelage of one of the best coaching staffs and the leadership of one of the most progressive front offices in all of professional baseball. On the bench, the River Cats were led by the 2003 Sporting News Minor League Manager of the Year Tony DeFrancesco. Mr. DeFrancesco and his able assistants were able to harness one of the greatest collections of gifted players in the Pacific Coast League into a balanced team that is epitomized by fair play and an unyielding commitment to teamwork. In the front office, the River Cats are led by the visionary leadership of President and CEO Art Savage and the astute management of Executive Vice Presidents Warren Smith and Robert Hemond. Under this leadership team, the River Cats have taken great steps to forge one of the strongest and most unique relationships in all of sports with their team supporters. Given the River Cats front office's commitment to the city of Sacramento, it is no wonder why the River Cats have led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance during each of their four years in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento River Cats conclude their greatest season in franchise history and prepare to achieve greater triumphs in the future, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Capitol Region and River Cats fans everywhere. Their successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to their accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Sacramento River Cats on a wonderful season and wishing them greater success in future seasons.